

Torrance Herald

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KING WILLIAMS - GLENN W. PFEIL
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Let's Be Specific

Many sincere members of the John Birch Society are being maligned by individuals and party-liners, some of whom probably could not measure up if their records of accomplishment as solid citizens were to be compared with the average member of that allegedly "extreme right" organization.

For the sake of the record, let it be repeated this newspaper pointed out a long time ago that the inordinate statements attributed to Founder Welch not only would draw the fire of justifiable criticism but, worse, could seriously jeopardize the anti-communism cause.

And make no mistake about it — communism is the greatest threat to your safety and the safety of your children this nation has faced since it became a world power.

To the credit of most Birch members, they have been aware of the menace of communism for a long time, and in their way are trying to do something about it. Of course, there are some crackpots in the Birch group; any organization has them. The ones we know are, for the most part, very stable, loyal Americans who have become disgusted with the failure of too many of our political leaders to assess properly or effectively counteract the many and continuing successful aggressions of communist forces throughout the world.

This newspaper has received criticism from some for opinions expressed by our syndicated columnists.

"Why," one critic asks, "can these writers so readily jump on the right while ignoring or failing to identify the dangerous left?"

We must agree he has a point. It has become popular, from the president on down, to swing the axe almost gleefully on this organization they choose to label "extreme right." The "far left" is only vaguely identified, and in such manner that no great risks are to be taken on the next election day.

Many members and defenders of the John Birch Society are not "Johnny Come Latelys" to the fight against communism. Long ago they, along with other concerned Americans, sensed this very real danger to the safety of the average American, and quite accurately foresaw the march of events, now a sordid part of American history. They saw the flaws in the United Nations charter immediately upon its adoption in San Francisco and have employed common sense reasoning ever since in appraising the day after day failures of that organization to accomplish its lofty purpose.

To our knowledge, no member of the Birch Society has ever taken the Fifth Amendment as a refuge from the law of the land. To our knowledge, no member of the Birch Society has ever advocated the elimination of the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America. Conversely it is old hat that some of the more nasty critics of the John Birch Society have not only weaseled their way behind the Fifth Amendment but also have advocated or supported any individual or organization espousing the beatnik philosophy that every American is justified in expecting all the protection of his American citizenship without having to do so much as raise his right hand in allegiance to the very nation that has given him the bountiful freedom that makes it possible for him to dissent. He is privileged to do this despite the ridiculous image he presents to stable people all around him whose forebears have fought and died for the rights he holds so lightly or have lost their sons and fathers in a nation's cause that by any standard has been the most noble in the history of mankind.

Some politicians — Democrat and Republican — are trying to fashion a straw man out of some of the weaker fabrics of the John Birch Society. How well they succeed will depend on thinking Americans who will recognize the basic weaknesses of some of the philosophies expressed by Robert Welch while still keeping a weather eye on the leftist elements within our society who, it does not take any imagination, are being most helpful in varying degrees to the expressed intention of the Reds to dominate the world.

Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

40 Years Ago

In the March 24, 1922, edition, C. P. Roberts announced his taking over of the HERALD. In it he expressed the hope the paper would be an instrument of good for Torrance, saying, "we hope to merit the friendship and patronage of the business community by rendering service." At the same time Mr. Roberts announced the completion of a printing plant "that is unequalled in Southern California for weekly publications. Already machinery is being moved in to complete the equipment of the Herald office and ere long the very latest linotype machine on the market today will be shipped in."

One of the ads in the HERALD read: "The world's latest news and musical selections can be heard over the wireless station at Lyon's Electric Store, Torrance. Free entertainment every Wednesday evening."

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Whitney of Torrance Park have purchased a new Chevrolet.

30 Years Ago

Jack Frost played havoc with many of the city's shade trees this winter and it was necessary for the city council this week to purchase 150 new trees to replace those that had been killed by frost. A bargain price of 25 cents each was obtained by Superintendent of Streets Gascoigne, who explained that the usual price is 65 cents.

Spring flowers shown by the city on vacant lots are coming into bloom in Torrance. Many varieties are seen this year and the effect is beautiful. Children and enthusiastic lovers of flowers are warned to refrain from picking the blooms as they have been planted to delight the eyes of many and not to satisfy the desires of a few.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Whyte on Post Avenue provided the setting for an attractively appointed bridge dinner party Saturday evening when Mr. and Mrs. Whyte and Mr. and Mrs. Ray C. Young entertained a group of their friends.

20 Years Ago

Determined to prove that Americans can grow "just as good vegetables as the Japanese if given half a chance, Robert and Chester Englund, brother farming experts, have organized a company known as the San Pedro Farms and already have leased from the Palos Verdes Land Co. more than 1,330 acres embracing nearly all of the tillable land from Redondo Beach around the ocean front to San Pedro. This land has been and is being evacuated by the Japanese.

The 5,000th baby born at Torrance Memorial hospital is husky Gerald W. Zigler. The No. 1 baby was a boy, also, born to Mr. and Mrs. Frost on May 23, 1925. Dr. John W. Beeman served at the arrival of No. 5,000.

Men of 45 to 65 (those born on or after April 28, 1877) must register on April 27 between 7 and 9 p.m. for non-combatant service, possibly work in war factories, under the Selective Service Law.

Meanwhile—



James Dorais

Free Enterprise Medical Services Receive Boost

Whether or not the physical fitness of the average American would be improved by compulsory touch football is debatable, but it is a heartening fact that remarkable progress in the health of the American people has been achieved during the past few decades.

A study sponsored by the Twentieth Century Fund, "America's Needs and Resources," reveal that the death rate dropped about 45 per cent between 1900 and 1950, from 17.2 per 1,000 persons to 9.6 per 1,000.

The report states that "there are, today, more than four times as many persons 65 years of age and over in the United States as there were in 1900 . . . The infant mortality rate declined . . . from 99.9 per 1,000 live births in 1915 . . . to 28.4 in 1951."

The Twentieth Century Fund study points to "discoveries and inventions in the sphere of drug therapy" as one of the "most dramatic medical achievements." The report also refutes the recent Kefauver Committee charges that drug prices are too high, pointing out that "the price of all goods and services in 1950 was up 72 per cent from the 1935-39 averages, whereas the price of medical care and drugs had risen only 48 per cent."

The report also states: "While medical care items have increased relatively little in price, average weekly earnings have mounted rapidly. As a consequence, just 54 per cent of a week's wages of production workers in manufacturing industries in 1952 was necessary to purchase the same amount of medical care and drugs as a whole week's wages in 1935-1939."

"The same amount of physicians' services could be bought with 50 per cent of a week's wages in 1935-1939. The amount of hospital services purchased with a week's

wages in 1935-1939 would require 95 per cent of a week's wages in 1952."

In commenting on the Twentieth Century Fund study, the magazine U.S.A. points out that among the main factors responsible for the tremendous improvements in American health standards have been our free enterprise medical system, good quality pharmaceutical drugs, our incentives patent system, and advertising.

Curiously, all of these four factors are under varying degrees of attack by the New Frontier, despite its expressed concern for physical fitness.

Morning Report:

In the olden days, about 10 years ago, picketing was simple. Guys were telling the boss how much pay they wanted. Now it's usually ladies telling the President how to run the Government.

But they picket so often, nobody pays much attention. As in Northern Rhodesia, the picketing ladies came up with a new wrinkle. They took off their clothes to call attention to their political ideals.

I'm not one to advocate such goings-on, because it's against the law to undress in public. But it surely would liven things up on our picket lines. Even the President couldn't ignore them.

Abe Mellinkoff

ROYCE BRIER

Questions on Nuclear Tests Still Unanswered

In the winter rain and snow the pickets paced by the White House. They protested nuclear testing, though the United States had not resumed atmospheric testing, only small underground tests.

President Kennedy has announced conditional resumption of atmospheric tests. He was hardly precipitate about it, considering the timing of the Soviet tests. Manifestly, testing is a very delicate matter, engaging the emotions of millions, not just the few thousands who picket here and in Britain.

It requires a month or more to set up tests, which could be held at Johnson Island, 700 miles southwest of Hawaii, or Christmas Island, a British possession in mid-Pacific. With a subjectivity wholly absurd, the Russians have branded any American tests as "aggressive."

Washington observers say

the President delayed an announcement and order so that testing would not precede opening of the Geneva disarmament conference. The conference is in precarious balance because Premier Khrushchev is pushing for a summit at Geneva, which the President has tentatively rejected. The Washington announcement, indeed, might well yet cause Khrushchev to pick up his marbles and go home.

Mr. Kennedy's advisers, military and some scientific, have been exerting pressure for resumption. For some years in crescendo those experts have averred neglect of testing endangers our security.

As a generality, this is an understandable equation — if the Russians test and we don't, they will be out ahead in development of nuclear weapons. But the generality has one curious aspect — it compels the American people

A Bookman's Notebook

Author Misses Her Train On Underground Railroad

William Hogan

The term Underground Railroad suggests a moving and rousing experience in American history. It was, of course, the system by which fugitive slaves were conducted to freedom in the North, or in Canada, before the Civil War. Puzzled by these escapes, slaveholders began saying their chattels must be fleeing aboard some "underground railroad."

Abolitionists offered their homes as "stations" on this railroad over which "trains" of slaves were guided, usually at night, by "conductors." The idea suggests the basis of a major American opera, or at least a dramatic and meaningful novel. This has never been written.

Latest to try is Sally Carrighar in a novel titled "The Glass Dove." In it she misses the essential drama, violence, and poignancy of the Underground Railroad and even the fantasy it represented as an answer to the slaveholding philosophy.

Miss Carrighar, a very able writer, heretofore has concentrated on natural science themes in such books as "Ice-bound Summer" and "Wild

Voice of the North." Here she has rummaged through some of her own family history to construct a story of an Ohio farmer who turns his house and his family, including a young daughter, Sylvia, into a working depot on the Underground Railroad.

I found the book tough going; the characters surprisingly lifeless; Sylvia's romance uninteresting, if not a cliché of Hollywood movie proportions. Life does flash through when the author concentrates on slaves. I think what happened here is that Miss Carrighar was captivated chiefly by the story from her family archives and fashioned the characters as an afterthought.

Booksellers seem particularly high on "The Glass Dove." And at least one reader has reported that this romance played against suspense, violence and a heart-breaking quest for freedom kept her up all night long. I wish I could go along with this, for I have enjoyed Miss Carrighar's previous work and recognize that a great deal of research and care has gone into this book.

But the 19th Century style seems unobtrusive to the point of blandness. And the fact remains that after more than a century a great American theme has yet to be exploited in a first-rate piece of fiction.

As a romance played against the enormous events of the 1860s, this may be acceptable light reading. It is disappointing because it merely scratches the surface, and seems to be an opportunity wasted.

Notes on the Margin—

"Passage Perilous," by Beth Day, author and magazine writer, is an account of the seizure of the Portuguese liner Santa Maria as told to the author by the crew, shipping company officials, government and police personnel involved (Putnam's).

On March 29, Houghton Mifflin will issue a new, enlarged fully illustrated edition of Roger Tory Peterson's "How to Know the Birds" \$3.50. The ornithologist-artist is known for the famous Field Guides, now embracing many branches of natural science. The Glass Dove, by Sally Carrighar. Doubleday; 347 pp.; \$4.95.

From the Mailbox

By Our Readers

Editor, Torrance Herald

On the morning of March 7, 1962, I discovered my two youngest children with a can of 3 in 1 oil. The baby, age 1½, had the tip of the can in her mouth. The other child, age 2½, had climbed on a chair and removed it from the top of the washing machine. The oil had been left there by an older brother minutes before.

The label warned that it was dangerous if taken by children and could be fatal. Not knowing if they had swallowed any, I called a physician. He told me to take them to a hospital and have their stomachs pumped immediately.

This is where my trouble began. I ran to a neighbor and asked her to drive me to Harbor General. We started out, but less than two blocks away the car gave out. I ran back home but was unable to find anyone with a car to drive us to the hospital.

I called the operator and asked for the police department. The captain talked to me and said he would send a radio car immediately. It was then discovered that I had been referred to the wrong city. I was not a resident of Gardena. He was very kind and suggested I call my local police department (Torrance).

I called and explained the emergency. I was told a car would be dispatched. I called my husband at work (in

Hollywood) and asked him to come home to stay with the other children who were ill with the flu. A short time later the phone rang and a lieutenant from our local police department informed me that a car would not be sent as it was against department policy. I explained the emergency and that I had no way of getting the children to a hospital.

I asked him how was I to get help. He then said he could call a private ambulance company for me. He was very impatient. He said, "Do you want me to call an ambulance or not?" I had no other choice but to say yes.

The ambulance arrived and I asked them to take me to Harbor General or the nearest emergency hospital. They transported us to a supposed emergency hospital. They radioed the information ahead. When we arrived there was only one nurse on duty. Ambulance fee \$41. (\$20.50 per child) a distance of 4.7 miles with no medical service rendered in ambulance.

After giving the information I was informed they were trying to locate a doctor. Unfortunately all the doctors were out to lunch. They then asked me if I knew a doctor in the area. I gave them the name and told them it was the day he was not in his office. They called him and he said he would refer a pediatrician. The pediatrician called and asked the information. He said he would be in in a little while.

I called home to check my other children. My husband was home and I told him to come to the hospital with the other children. The doctor and my husband arrived at the same time. The children were examined and a prescription was given for the youngest child, an antibiotic as it was not certain if the lung congestion was due to the oil or a cold. I was told to watch them for any signs of breathing difficulty. Two and one half hours had elapsed. I can't help but wonder

der what the results would have been if it had been a more lethal poison.

Parents don't let a tragedy strike your community. Protect your children. Demand adequate emergency aid. This story had a happy ending. What about next time? Your child or a neighbor's child may not be as fortunate.

LAUREN A. BAXTER
DON BAXTER
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Editor, Torrance Herald

In the Feb. 25 issue of the HERALD, James Dorais refers to Americans for Democratic Action as the "left wing equivalent" of the Birch Society.

On behalf of ADA, I would like to protest this juxtaposition. Nothing could be farther from the truth. ADA believes in the basic American tradition of the open society — the free interchange of ideas, the democratic system, public scrutiny of political organizations, belief in the Bill of Rights. It is within this context that we put forth our ideas and vie for the support of the American electorate.

On the other hand, the Birch Society is a closed and secret organization that apes the methods of the Communists in infiltrating other organizations, and takes issue with basic American traditions and beliefs. In this sense it is radical. ADA is not.

Further in the column, Mr. Dorais suggests that our opposition to the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade School is an effort to sweep prior liberal association with Communists under the rug. In a statement in Los Angeles, Jan. 27, Joseph L. Rauh Jr., national vice chairman of ADA, said that "as liberals were correct in the forties in demanding that liberals sever their connections with the Communists, and correctly so, American liberals call on true conservatives to sever their ties with the radical right."

SHELDON POLLACK
Executive Director

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STARTS HERE
MARCH 29TH

PUNJABS
by gumpert
A cartoon panel that digs abstract puns